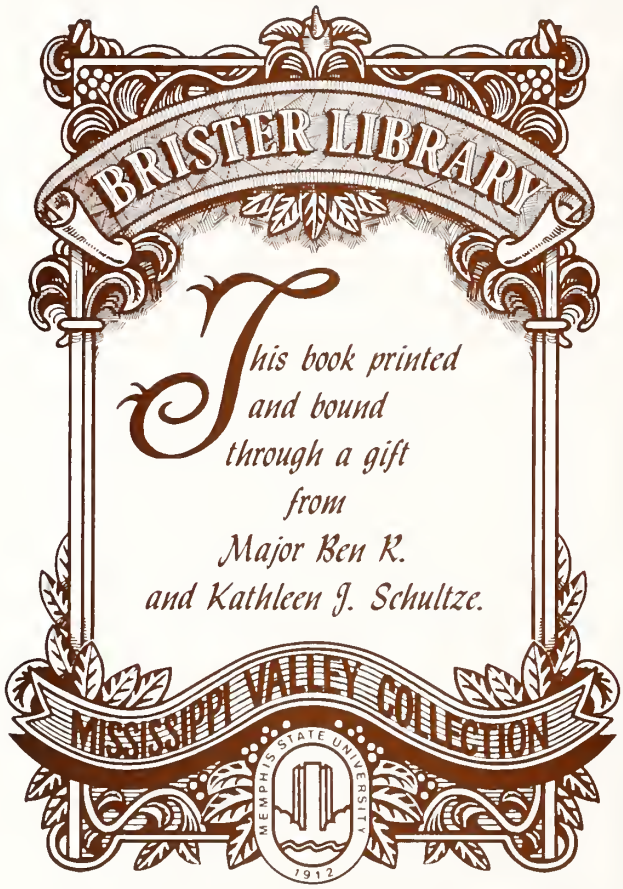
MEMPHIS DURING THE CRUMP ERA
INTERVIEWS WITH MISS FRANCES RICE

BY CHARLES W. CRAWFORD
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE
MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY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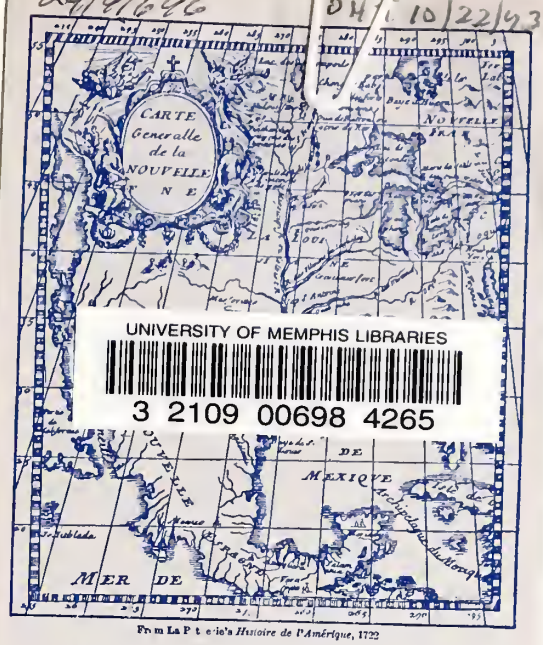

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INTERVIEWS WITH MISS FRANCES J. RICE

SEPTEMBER 13, 1989

SEPTEMBER 21, 1989

BY CHARLES W. CRAWFORD

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE

MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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PLACE Memphis Tennessee

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Frances J Rice

(INTERVIEWEE)

Charles W. Crawford

(For the Mississippi Valley Archives of the John Willard Brister Library of Memphis State University)

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THIS IS THE ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE OF MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY. THE PROJECT IS "MEMPHIS DURING THE CRUMP ERA." THE INTERVIEW IS WITH MISS FRANCES RICE. THE DATE IS SEPTEMBER 13, 1989. THE PLACE IS MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. THE INTERVIEW IS BY DR. CHARLES W. CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE. TRANSCRIBED BY BETTY WILLIAMS. INTERVIEW I.

DR. CRAWFORD: Miss Rice, I am interested a great deal in the life of your father, Frank Rice, but I would like to ask a few questions about you first so that we will know how things fit together. Will you tell me about your family, your parents, and where you were born and grew up and what you remember about the earliest period?

MISS RICE: Well, I don't think my mother and father met before 1898. My father was in the Spanish-American War. He was born in 1868. He must have been around thirty when he was in the Spanish-American War. Why he volunteered I don't know, but he went to Cuba. I have a picture of him that I'll show you.

DR. CRAWFORD: Is your picture in uniform taken in Cuba?

MISS RICE: Yes, go look in the kitchen.

DR. CRAWFORD: I'll look at that later, if I may.

MISS RICE: At that time he was about thirty. My mother, I have a picture of her when she was eighteen at about 1899. Then they met in 1902 and they were married in 1903.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes, you do have a picture of him and this is a picture of your mother. She was younger at the

time. They are a very good looking couple.

MISS RICE: Yes, she was thirteen years younger than he.

DR. CRAWFORD: He is a soldier here wearing his uniform. That picture was made during the war in 1898 when he would have been about thirty years old. That is a very good photograph.

MISS RICE: That was made in Knoxville before he shipped out, I guess.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe that the Tennessee troops trained somewhere in East Tennessee and then were sent to Cuba.

MISS RICE: That's what I think. Governor Browning was in that same group. We used to have a picture of officers in a tent in Cuba. Of course, they look so funny to me as a child that I really couldn't tell which one was daddy. But I know that he was in that picture and so was Gordon Browning. I have lost this picture.

DR. CRAWFORD: I am glad that you have this picture. What had he done before he went into the Spanish-American War?

MISS RICE: He used to tell the story that he jumped out the window at Christian Brothers College and went to Main Street and got a job and fooled around with the other young men who were a little bit older than he. By the time that he got a job as runner in the bank he was about 17 or 18 years old, I think. Then his mother found out that he was not going to school. Of course, he had a brother two years younger who was a good student. Uncle Steve went on to the University of Pennsylvania and became a doctor. But daddy at nineteen tried to go to the

University of Virginia and he went one semester. But, I think, he played too much poker. (Laughter) He was interested in the horses and the ladies. He had too much fun, and I think he flunked out the first semester. That was when he was nineteen.

DR. CRAWFORD: That sounds like many other southern students through the years.

MISS RICE: Yes, I know. It isn't unusual.

DR. CRAWFORD: He did go to University of Virginia for awhile.

MISS RICE: I wish you could find out how long he was there.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, I am sure they would have a record of enrollment, Miss Rice. Then, after a semester he came back, I suppose, to Memphis.

MISS RICE: Yes, and found that that man who had encouraged him to go to the University of Virginia had gotten his job.

DR. CRAWFORD: At the bank? Do you remember what bank that was?

MISS RICE: (Laughter) No, but one you have never heard of now. I mean it is long gone. I've heard him tell the story a good many times.

DR. CRAWFORD: He went to the University of Virginia very early.

MISS RICE: Yes, he was smart.

DR. CRAWFORD: Probably in the 1880s or early '90s at the latest.

MISS RICE: Yes, 1888 or 1887 when he was about nineteen and before he was twenty, you see. He realized that he wanted to be a lawyer. So he went and he tried. He really just couldn't do the work. He hadn't had the background at Christian

Brothers College because he had skipped out on it.

DR. CRAWFORD: His family lived here. Who were his parents?

MISS RICE: Well, his parents were Dr. Francis Rice. He came from Ireland when he was four years old with his widowed mother to join an older brother who had settled in Memphis. I figure that Grandfather Rice was born about 1830 in Ireland and came over at four years old. That is the legend. His older brother was named James Rice and he was a contractor. I guess, a carpenter. Anyway, he helped build the first St. Peter's Church and the second St. Peter's Church downtown. My grandmother's name was Isabell Franciola. She was born in New York City of Swiss/Italian parents. Her mother died before she was ten years old and she and her father came to Memphis. He was Stephen Edward Franciola. He later married a Mrs. Byrd and he is buried in Elmwood Cemetery. All the Rices are buried in Calvary Cemetery. My father is buried in Elmwood.

DR. CRAWFORD: I know the Rice family has been active in Memphis for a long time for you see the name in city directories back to a very early period.

MISS RICE: But they are no connection. I don't know whether they are Irish. But my grandfather came at four years old. I've got where in 1851 when he was in Philadelphia he became an American citizen. I've got some sort of a paper on that that I gave to my oldest nephew, Russ Prichard. He has it and now his son has it or will have it in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

DR. CRAWFORD: I'm glad you can save family records like that.

MISS RICE: One trouble is that my mother would tear up things.

My father never wrote anything down. So I don't have many records. (Laughter) Just things I've squirrelled away over the last seventy years, you might say. I'm a saver; I'm a packrat. I've saved a good many things and lost a good many things. But I've got a good memory.

DR. CRAWFORD: Historians are glad when you save things, of course, because we like to have the records around. He was in the Spanish-American War then. Had he been working at a bank before he went in?

MISS RICE: Yes, he had. He had also been working. He had a bicycle shop agency on bicycles. He was an expert bicycler. We can't imagine that because from the time that I knew him in 1919 really, he had the gout and the rheumatism. I couldn't imagine Daddy on a bicycle. But they had records and the Best Bicycle Company which lasted a long, long time. That man knew him and was a rival and gave an interesting interview to somebody on when he and Frank Rice were in competition and in business.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was very important because automobiles didn't get started here till after 1900 and for awhile, especially through the 1890s, bicycles were a big business. I have read about them, and seen pictures. A lot of people rode bicycles to get around town. Because it was better than horses to be in town that way. Of course, some of them don't look like the bicycles now.

MISS RICE: No. Daddy didn't talk much about that period. I think he was sort of going with a sort of a wild crowd like maybe what you would call the motorcycle people now.

I mean he was really a racer or something like that. But anyway he was supposed to be in love with Jenny Fontaine who was Nolan Fontaine's daughter. He was, I'd say, all during the 90s. I've got a clipping in the 75 years ago column where the Fontaines gave a big party and had the 20 girls and their dates and that kind of thing. But daddy was Jenny Fontaine's date. That's the reason that in 1900 when Mr. Crump and Bessie McLean Byrd got married Daddy was one of the groomsmen because Jenny Fontaine was one of the bridesmaids. It was a very fashionable wedding. But then, Jenny Fontaine met this millionaire from Chicago and married him. So Daddy was left in the lurch, (laughter) after going with her about twelve years.

DR. CRAWFORD: It was around 1900 or so wasn't it that that happened?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well obviously, he and Mr. Crump had become friends early.

MISS RICE: But maybe on account of he was Jenny Fontaine's regular date and she was a bridesmaid. I think that was more of the real reason because I think they got to know each other around that time. Mr. Crump was right new in town and Daddy was right old.

DR. CRAWFORD: Because he came to Memphis in the 1890s, Mr. Crump did, maybe about 1893. Your father had been in Memphis quite awhile by that time.

MISS RICE: He was about thirty years old.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, he was in his twenties at that time on his

way to being thirty. Then, a few years later he went away to war to the Spanish-American War. Mr. Crump did not go to that war?

MISS RICE: No.

DR. CRAWFORD: But I guess your father did not stay away very long?

MISS RICE: No, he didn't--only about five months or something like that.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, that was a very quick war. It started in April and it was over in August of that year.

MISS RICE: That's about right, then.

DR. CRAWFORD: So the soldiers did not have to serve very long.

MISS RICE: No.

DR. CRAWFORD: But he was lucky to get back alive because there were a lot of deaths by disease.

MISS RICE: But you see he had been through the yellow fever epidemics here in Memphis. So I think he was immune to malaria and to yellow fever.

DR. CRAWFORD: He would have been about 10 years old in the yellow fever epidemic.

MISS RICE: Just about.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you ever hear him mention that?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did he say about that, Miss Rice?

MISS RICE: The way I remember what he said was that he got the yellow fever and his mother stayed in town to nurse him, but sent all the other children--four other children-- and

the two older cousins who lived in the house with them out to the James Rice farm on Benjestown Road which was still in the family till 1964 when my aunt sold it to Plough for the WMPS radio station.

DR. CRAWFORD: That's beautiful country out there on Benjestown Road .

MISS RICE: They had 163 acres and just a corner of it was on Benjestown Road. For the last fifty years before they sold it it had been rented to Italian truck gardeners who lived out that way. It was vacant property. There was nothing on the farm--no house--but there was a shack that you could see from the road. A tenant farmer lived in it. But it was rented to an Italian truck farmer and he rented it out and brought the produce into town.

Then, one corner of it was on the Loosahatchie River. I've seen a plot of the ground. I've never been more than ten or twenty feet into the property. I'd drive by and I wanted a farm of my own and instead of getting it which I thought I was going to when they died. They sold it in '64 for a very good price, Mr. McDonnico got them. They were pleased to death to get that.

DR. CRAWFORD: But you didn't get your farm?

MISS RICE: No, I didn't get my farm.

DR. CRAWFORD: That is beautiful country and it is good farming land. I have driven out that road and over the Loosahatchie River there.

MISS RICE: But the Second Street bridge was washed out and it was hard to get to at one point much harder than it

is now. I haven't been out to look at it for about ten years though.

DR. CRAWFORD: But your father lived in Memphis all the time?

MISS RICE: All the time but during the yellow fever epidemic grandmother sent the younger children and the older cousins out there. When he had completely recovered, they went out there and stayed the rest of that summer. You see, my grandfather Rice had died in April of that year of '78 and this was probably July and August of '78 that the yellow fever really hit Memphis again.

DR. CRAWFORD: It lasted until October, I believe.

MISS RICE: Now, Paul remembers the story that Daddy was out on the farm and they sent him into town for supplies at the age of ten, you see, with an older colored man or someone probably like that. Daddy saw a good deal of the destruction and what it had done to the city of Memphis. Daddy didn't dwell on that in telling the story to me and my younger sister. So I didn't hear that part of it. Because Daddy could tell a story in six or seven different ways and make a good story out of it.

DR. CRAWFORD: He had lived through interesting times. He went through the yellow fever, through the Spanish-American War, through World War I, the Depression and a lot of things.

MISS RICE: He was a legislator in 1919. I found a clipping that I had cut out two or three years ago. Look at this clipping.

DR. CRAWFORD: This is from News of ByGone Days.

MISS RICE: About two years ago.

DR. CRAWFORD: This was 69[years ago]. This was February 26. "Senator Frank Rice of Shelby County, February 26, 1919, introduded three bills in the state senate yesterday which would provide a total bond issue of $13,000,000 for Memphis for establishment of a municipally owned street car system and electric car and gas plant and a telephone system."

Did you know that there is a short biography of him in a publication called Biographical Directory of the General Assembly?

MISS RICE: Is that a thing that you pay to put the stuff in?

DR. CRAWFORD: No, it is one that the state published, Miss Rice.

MISS RICE: No, I didn't know about it. I'd love to have a copy of that.

DR. CRAWFORD: I'll give you a telephone number where you could call to order one or find out how to get one.

MISS RICE: Okay.

DR. CRAWFORD: I'll have to send it to you because I don't remember it. I think perhaps I can remember it and I'll help you find where you could get that biography. Because they have them of all the members of the Tennessee General Assembly up through that period.

MISS RICE: Oh, well good. That was three weeks after my brother died of a ruptured appendix at Sewanee Military Academy. Daddy had to be in the Legislature and mother had to be at home with two small children. The date on that surprised me. I mean I didn't know how important he was at that time. But anyway, my brother's death really affected all of us

for the rest of time because my mother's personality changed[over] losing that son. Of course, my father never showed how much he was hurt by the idea of losing his only son who was named for his brother.

DR. CRAWFORD: You have kept clippings in this little photo album very up to date. You have one from yesterday.

MISS RICE: Yes, I know it. All I've done in getting ready for you was to go through some clippings that I had and I didn't have much time because I have an infected finger and I had to go get it treated. It took two or three hours yesterday. I planned to have more information--proof of information.

DR. CRAWFORD: So far you remember plenty. I noticed that yesterday and meant to and will put it in my file too because I knew how important these things were. I always read the News of ByGone Days. Helen may have told you, I wrote them for five years for The Commercial Appeal.

MISS RICE: I knew you did.

DR. CRAWFORD: But I am not doing it now. I needed to write some books instead.

MISS RICE: Did Paul do it or he appointed somebody to do the By Gone Days years ago?

MRS. COPPOCK: Charles, do you remember? I'm sure he did.

DR. CRAWFORD: Helen, several people had done it. I've heard of them--the ones who wrote News of ByGone Days. I wrote it from early '80s, I would say. I can look in my file. Perhaps the beginning of the '80s to about '85. Then, I gave it

up and it is being written now by a lady who is a former student of mine. It is very important work. It also takes a lot of time.

MISS RICE: I bet it does to go through that paper and find something of or five papers, isn't it?

DR. CRAWFORD: I think the lady [Ann Meeks] who is doing it now is doing a fine job. I gave it up because I needed to write books and it was taking ten hours every week to do. I just didn't have time for all of that but it has good information and I am glad you had this clipping in here.

MISS RICE: Then, I have one on '29 too.

DR. CRAWFORD: We can see this in the directory, but did he ever talk to you about the time he was in the Legislature?

MISS RICE: No, but he would tell funny stories on himself. Like he told Paul that he would go out in the halls and lobby with himself when he was a legislator. He didn't know how to talk when he was down on the floor,but he would go out in the hall and figure out what to say next. And then get somebody else to say it in the delegation.(Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: That's the way a lot of the work is done anyway in the Legislature.

MISS RICE: But you see,most people don't understand that. It makes me mad that he was so criticized. Now here, it shows in this clipping who the legislators were. Now, that is about the period that I start actually remembering hearing him talk and hearing half of telephone conversations and stuff like that.

DR. CRAWFORD: This is a clipping from"News of ByGone Days" in The Commercial Appeal which appeared on January 3, 1979 because it is fifty years ago news which would be January 3rd 1929. It is about your father who was already in Nashville getting ready for the Shelby County delegation to go there. That was in 1929 and several months before the Great Depression started. I'm glad that news about him is in the paper here.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Because it is a help to have these records. When you were growing up, where did your family live in Memphis?

MISS RICE: That is an interesting thing. People nowadays think that we lived on the Parkway, but Daddy only lived on the Parkway three years. My mother lived another 25 years and then my sister and I lived in the house on Parkway another eight to ten years. But when he was first married he lived with his family--mother and father did. Then, he also lived with her family--the Calib Baker Jones on Mississippi Avenue. Then, Dr. Battle Malone had a little cottage on Union Avenue across from Methodist Hospital now and my father and mother and my aunt and uncle rented that cottage from the Malones for about three years on Union near Cleveland. Then my mother and father built a house at 1684 Carr Avenue. They built it and Grandmother Rice gave them a thousand dollars extra and they put a tile roof on it. Mother was very proud of that tile roof. Also, the fact that Grandmother Rice was able to give them something without the sisters knowing about it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you can hardly get those tile roofs anymore.

MISS RICE: No, we had to replace one on the Parkway house and it cost $5000 to replace it. When we were hit by a hail storm on just one-half of the roof.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember what year that hail storm was? I've heard about that.

MISS RICE: I've got a picture in there of my nephew, Russ, who was born in 1940. I think it was about 1944 because it is a picture of him.

DR. CRAWFORD: I have heard about that hail storm and about all of the insurance claims that had to be handled in Memphis.

MISS RICE: It was terrific. It hit my car which was under the porte-co-chere. The hood was sticking out. It made dents as big as oranges, I mean, hitting the car. It sounded like a freight train coming over the house when it hit the roof.

DR. CRAWFORD: That's amazing!

MISS RICE: We were listening to Walter Winchell in the northeast bedroom. We didn't know what was happening to us. It was very sudden and very quickly went past us hit in Chickasaw Gardens. We were on the corner of Jefferson and Parkway. The Lovick Miles had a house next door that the McClures had built and it had a slate roof. It was not ruined, I mean as much as ours. Our house got a more direct hit than theirs did. They had to repair certain parts of it. Norfleet Turner's mother lived on the corner of Jefferson and Cox. She had a composition roof on her house. They just patched it. Didn't even

bother to put a new roof on or to put one that looked decent. They just patched it. Some contractor had something and he came and patched it and that is all Mrs.Cartwright did about it.

DR. CRAWFORD: I have heard about that great hail storm. That's one of Memphis' natural disasters, you know. And you remember that?

MISS RICE: I remember it very well.

DR. CRAWFORD: Miss Rice, where did you go to school?

MISS RICE: I went to Pentecost Garrison School for Boys in September of 1919 because my brother had died at Sewanee Military Academy in February of 1919. My mother couldn't stand the house on Peabody Avenue any longer. There were too many of his friends up and down the street. We were three vacant lots from Mr. Crump's house.

DR. CRAWFORD: What street were you living on then?

MISS RICE: Peabody.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes.

MISS RICE: Yes, 1838 Peabody.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe his place was 1962 Peabody.

MISS RICE: Yes, this was 1938 because Daddy died in 1938. It was prophetic to me. Anyway, brother went to Idlewild School which was right on Linden back of that block between Barksdale and Rembert, I think, isn't it? Brother went there for eight years, you see, and then he either went off in the eighth or ninth grade. He was almost fourteen to Sewanee. Then, to go back to the next fall, mother didn't want to send me to Idlewild School. She had too many memories of Idlewild School and

the teachers there and how much they liked Brother and all that. She couldn't face them. So by that time we had moved to the Caroline Apartments that had been built at Union and McLean on northeast corner of Union and McLean.

DR. CRAWFORD: They have an restaurant there now.

MISS RICE: No, that was my grandmother and grandfather Jones' place.

DR. CRAWFORD: The northeast corner.

MISS RICE: Southeast. The northeast were these modern apartments that the Cocke family built. We were the first people to move in on the corner of Union and McLean there--northeast corner. George Morris, the editor of The Appeal also lived in that. They moved in about two or three months after we did. But they lived there longer than we did. We lived at McLean and Union because it was across the street from my grandfather and grandmother's house which they had bought and which was a big frame house and they had bought it in 1913--the year I was born.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you say Union or Poplar and McLean?

MISS RICE: Union.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes.

MISS RICE: At that location of the Gulf Station, my grandfather died in June of '29. My grandmother died in May of '33. They dismantled the house and tore it down and rented the property to Gulf and they have had it ever since. Finally, they bought it while there were still just four heirs to divide the money with. Palmer Brown was married to one

doctors. He was a family doctor. He was a Jew from Canada who settled in Memphis around 1895, I imagine. He was head of the Board of Health for a good many years.

DR. CRAWFORD: One of my students, Miss Rice, wrote a thesis on this campaign for pure food and milk in Memphis during the twentieth century. I am sure he mentions them.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: I'd have to read it through to see, but I am sure that he did. How old was your brother when he died?

MISS RICE: He was born March 17, 1905 and he died February 3, 1919. So he was almost 14 years old. About six weeks younger than fourteen.

DR. CRAWFORD: I can see what a loss that would be for the family.

MISS RICE: Yes, it was a terrific loss. It was so unnecessary because he had had an appendicitis attack the summer before, but he had been off at camp in West Virginia, I think. And he didn't let his mother or father know that he had been sick that summer. So when he had this second appendix attack the nurses at Sewanee just thought it was a school boy's stomach ache and put him in the infirmary. The doctor was off on a hunting trip and didn't see him for three days. So it was a tragic thing that happened. My mother kept a lovely letter that the principal of the military academy wrote to her and so forth. They had a service in the chapel at Sewanee--an Episcopal Service for him before the body was brought to Memphis.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was such a tragedy. There are so many things that they can treat now that they didn't know

granddaughter and Russ Prichard was married to another granddaughter. They decided. There were about eighteen grandchildren. They decided they had better get the property sold before it had to be settled and get permission from eighteen people instead of just four to agree on the price that they would get.

Anyway, I'll go back to my school [background]. I was six years old at the time. So I went to Pentecost Garrison School for Boys. I was the only girl in the lower school.

DR. CRAWFORD: I was going to ask how you happened to go to the school for boys? (Laughter)

MISS RICE: Well, my mother knew Miss Pentecost very well and Miss Bea Garrison. I was a very shy child and having lost my brother and been through all this sorrow, I wouldn't leave my mother. She had to go to school with me the first three or four weeks and stay in the room with the first, second and third grade. Finally, I would let her go out in the hall and help some other child--sort of tutor. So she was one of the first aides that the Memphis schools ever had. She went all year long. In a way, you see, it was good for her to have to be with these young people. Elizabeth, my sister, at the time of my brother's death in February of 1919 had typhoid fever which she had gotten from the milk supply. Of course, Dr. Max Gottman was our family doctor and he was also on the Board of Health. So he really put on a campaign to clear up the tuberculosis and typhoid fever.

DR. CRAWFORD: What doctor was that, Miss Rice?

MISS RICE: Dr. Max Gottman. He had three sons who were

anything about then.

MISS RICE: Yes. But even 20 years later a cousin had an attack in Nashville and wanted to come to Memphis to be operated on so they packed him in ice and drove him to Memphis and he had his Memphis doctor operate on him. They didn't know that in those days. So peritonitis set in and he didn't die on the operating table but he died a few hours after that. Of course, by the time he was operated on, my mother and her father had to take the train and go to Nashville with knowing that he was desperately ill. Then they had to take another train out to Sewanee. It was just awful. My mother's hair turned gray just over that.

DR. CRAWFORD: Just because of that?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: And you were just starting school then?

MISS RICE: No, this was in February and I didn't start school until I was five and a half.

DR. CRAWFORD: You started in the fall?

MISS RICE: Yes, I started that fall in school. By that time we had moved to this apartment. Sold the house on Peabody Avenue.

DR. CRAWFORD: How long did you go to school there, Miss Rice?

MISS RICE: Just one year. And then I went to Mrs. Hutchison's school in the second and third grades.

DR. CRAWFORD: Where was it located then?

MISS RICE: Waldren and Union in the old Love house.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was before it moved of course?

MISS RICE: Yes. Because it didn't move until '26 and I went there in '20.

DR. CRAWFORD: And you went there two years.

MISS RICE: That was in the lower school. Then I was in the upper school. The lower school was first, second and third and upstairs we had the fourth, fifth and sixth. I was in the fourth grade and then the sixth grade. I skipped the fifth grade because I kept listening to what everybody was learning in the room instead of studying for something else or something. I just skipped a grade. I skipped English grammar. I have never been sure of it since.(Laughter) I make colloquial mistakes and I don't even realize it in my Enlish grammar. Because I skipped the fifth grade, I am not real grounded in it.

DR. CRAWFORD:But you did skip the grade and went on.

MISS RICE: To the sixth. Then in the seventh grade I was in the new building. We moved out there in '26 and '27 or something. Then, I went off to boarding school in Connecticut and they put me back a year. So I went four years to school in Connecticut--Westover School, Middlebury, Connecticut.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why did you go to Westover School in Middlebury, Connecticut?

MISS RICE: Because my mother and sister and I went Charlevoix, Michigan,in about 1926 I guess. We went to Battle Creek, Michigan, because Mr. Crump liked Battle Creek so much. Mother, Elizabeth and I went and Daddy went for four days. He was supposed to go through the clinic too, but they didn't let him smoke. And he would have to go outside the grounds and sit on the benches on the street to smoke. So he didn't stand it but about

three days. Mostly they gave you watermelon to eat in the dining room.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was a health resort, wasn't it?

MISS RICE: Yes. So after mother and Elizabeth and I stayed at Battle Creek I guess, for about three weeks and then we went to Charlevoix, Michigan. At Charlevoix in Michigan Mother met somebody who had some interesting pictures of Westover School, Middlebury, Connecticut. It was a church related school. It was not an Episcopal school in that it was run by nuns or anything. It was just an Episcopal school because that was what the head mistress was. We had a chapel and we went to chapel twice a day five days a week. Then we went into Waterbury, Connecticut, on Sundays for church. Or we could go across the green and go to a Congregational church. Usually, that was the one I went to because it was so much simpler and you could do what you wanted to. Otherwise you had to go in on the bus to Waterbury and that wasted time as far as I was concerned. I was an Episcopalian six days a week and a Congregationalist on Sundays. Then the little village of Middlebury did have a Catholic Church and we had one Catholic girl in the whole 150 students in the school.

They had three southern girls.

DR. CRAWFORD: You were one of them.

MISS RICE: I was one of them. I got into the school because Daddy asked Bishop Gailor to write a letter. Of course, he was presiding--I mean--what was later to become a presiding bishop. He was president of the bishops. So

immediately he wrote the letter I was in. Senator McKellar also wrote a letter.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you had good recommendations.

MISS RICE: To the senator of Connecticut and he wrote a letter. Of course, I found out later that Miss Hillary didn't like the senator from Connecticut, but anyway with Bishop Gailor I got into the school on very short notice. You practically had to be entered at birth or something like that or you had to have an awful lot of money. But I got in on account of Bishop Gailor.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you like the school there at Westover?

MISS RICE: It was hell. It was a wonderful school, but I was so shy and that was the reason I was sent off to school. I was too dependent on my mother. That was what the doctors told her and told me. I needed to be away and on my own. So I went and I enjoyed certain parts of it. In another way I never let them know how unhappy I was the first year or two.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was it harder or easier than school in Memphis?

MISS RICE: Much harder but much more interesting too. Of course, I was fifteen. We had a marvelous library up there. I got into reading Gallsworthy and they gave me certain things like Tuskeegee to read which I had never run across in Memphis and other things that they thought I ought to be educated on. I had good supervision in my reading there. But I found Gallsworthy on my own and was just fascinated with the Forsythe Saga and stuff like that. And the English politics of long ago.

DR. CRAWFORD: I know what a pleasure a good library is.

Memphis had a library system then, but I don't suppose it was convenient to your home, was it?

MISS RICE: Well, I used to go to the Madison Heights Library which was on Madison near Cleveland, but I was purely a child and I didn't really get interested in reading history until I went off to Westover. I was pretty good in history, but I was interested in English and history and history of art and history of architecture. That's enough on me. How did I get off on this. (Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: Let's change then and talk about something else, Miss Rice, because you left school and came back to Memphis.

MISS RICE: Not exactly.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, what happened when you left school. We have to get you back to Memphis eventually.

MISS RICE: Well, I came home. I graduated in June of 1932 when I was nineteen. I went to the Democratic Convention in Chicago.

DR. CRAWFORD: When Franklin Roosevelt was nominated?

MISS RICE: Yes. My father was a sixteenth of a delegate. He got me and I went up and stayed with a ex-roommate in Evanston, Illinois. He got us three tickets. Betty, Mrs. Allen and I would come in every day. She, of course, was a died in the wool Republican, but she was interested in going to the Democratic Convention as a visitor. So we were at the Convention morning, noon and night. We waited for Mrs. Roosevelt to come in and[for him] to accept the nomination. At one point I had a thing on a button that said, "Roosevelt, Richie and repeal." Daddy came by and said "Don't wear that pin. Don't wear that pin." So he made me take it off. (Laughter) I really was fascinated with the

Democratic Convention.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was an educational experience too, wasn't it?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: And your father being active in politics, he was there of course.

MISS RICE: Of course, Mayor Overton was a delegate and Mr. Crump was a delegate. I went to one delegate party and it was the first time I had ever tasted beer. It was Canadian beer in '32 and it was bitter. And so I would take a bite of dill pickle and then I'd take a swallow of beer. That way I got down the whole glass of beer. (Laughter) At nineteen.

DR. CRAWFORD: When the Democratic Convention was over, what did you do?

MISS RICE: Came home to Memphis and decided to go abroad with a Memphis chaperon. Marrianna Nichols, Mayor Overton's niece, went too. Laura Hoke of Atlanta went too. Her father was Mike Hoke, the orthopedic man who was in charge of Warm Springs, Georgia.

DR. CRAWFORD: Where Franklin Roosevelt went?

MISS RICE: Yes. The three girls--three young women--and Mary Boyd who I barely knew. She was an older woman. She must have been at least fifty. Another older in-law who had just lost her mother who must have been in her sixties. There were the five of us. Mary Boyd rented a French car from a

Nashville boy at Oxford. He met us at the boat at Southhampton. We went to Europe and I stayed over there fifteen months.

DR. CRAWFORD: Stayed in Europe fifteen months?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why did you stay so long?

MISS RICE: Because I didn't want to come home and make my debut. (Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: But I bet your parents wanted you to come back for your debut, didn't they?

MISS RICE: Yes. So I made it the next year.

DR. CRAWFORD: Where did you do it?

MISS RICE: Here in Memphis at the Memphis Country Club and at parties that my aunt gave for her daughter and for me at the Peabody. It was a beautiful party. Mr. App did the decorations.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you enjoy Europe?

MISS RICE: I had a wonderful time. You see the first five months, we had this car which we drove all over Europe, England,and France,and Belgium,and Holland,and Germany,and Austria and down to the toe of Italy and Switzerland. Then we came back by way of French Riviera and back to Paris by September and October.

DR. CRAWFORD: What an adventure!

MISS RICE: It was marvelous.

DR. CRAWFORD: And it was a wonderful time to be in Europe. That was between the two wars. Things were calm.

MISS RICE: And there were no tourists because it was

Depression. There were no American tourists. There were English tourists and German tourists but no Americans practically. Well, in the summer time there were a few groups going through, but they were there for six to eight weeks. This trip cost me a thousand dollars which Mary Boyd said for each of the families to give her a thousand dollars and she would see how far she could make it go. We went for almost five months on $4000--five people.

DR. CRAWFORD: How long did you stay altogether?

MISS RICE: Three people left Paris in November to come back to the United States into their regular lives. But Mary Boyd and I stayed on in Paris and then a friend, Ruth Dillard Wright, came to join us for Christmas. We went to Oberammergau and stayed at Anton Lang's house. I had my first Christmas tree with candles on it. Then, we spent New Year's in Budapest and then we went to Constantinople and then we went from there to Greece and then back to Syria and then down through Palestine and over to Egypt and then by boat (small Italian boat--5,000 ton) to Tripoli. We stopped one day in Tripoli to get off. They threw us over the side of the boat into a life boat to take us in. It was awful. Then we spent the day there and it was a funny little Arab village--the city of Tripoli which since they have gotten oil, I wouldn't recognize it.

Then we got back on the Italian boat and hit some islands in the Mediterranean--the one where the fortress that the English had. Then we landed in Tunisia. We went down into the desert and got desert bound. You see I'm off on myself.

DR. CRAWFORD: I'll bet that you did not miss a chance to ride on a camel, did you?

MISS RICE: I did that in Egypt. Also, in North Africa. It was November 4th when we were in Tunisia. I mean it was March 4th--the day the banks closed in the United States. We got quite a bit of money changed into French francs. We were able to travel for three months on those French francs because the value of money changed. And so we got back to Paris without cashing any more American travelers' checks. We spent the month of April and May in Spain. Then we went to Geneva because I wanted to see the League of Nations. Norman Davis was head of the delegation there. His wife had gone to Vassar with Mary Boyd. So we stopped by to see her in Geneva. She took me to the League of Nations. I had studied it when I was in school the year before.

DR. CRAWFORD: What an educational experience.

MISS RICE: It was marvelous. There was this Spanish man got up and talked. Of course, it was translated into English simultaneously with the ear phones that we had. He was saying that we should have world police--I mean, that every country should send in so many soldiers according to their population and that this world armed force would police the whole world. Of course, it was a crazy idea at the time. But it developed sort of along those lines.

DR. CRAWFORD: More or less later under the United Nations. You had an opportunity to learn so much on that trip.

MISS RICE: Of course, I was interested in things like that because of my father and of having heard politics for

the ten years before that--just local politics. But I mean, he really believed that what he was doing here in Memphis and in Nashville was important to the city of Memphis and that he was doing the best that he knew how to do.

DR. CRAWFORD: So you were interested in politics too.

MISS RICE: On a world basis too.

DR. CRAWFORD: When did you get back to Memphis?

MISS RICE: October or November of '33. Then I made my debut and I was in the Cotton Carnival of '34. My cousin was Queen of the Cotton Carnival and I was Princess of the Country Club.

DR. CRAWFORD: In 1934?

MISS RICE: My sister was Princess of the Tennessee Club. She was only fifteen or sixteen, but she was very mature. She had been Princess of the Tennessee Club the year before, but had gone through the windshield of her escort's car the first night of the Cotton Carnival. It was a wreck that happened right at the corner of Chickasaw Gardens and Tillman, I guess it is now. She had to be taken into this house on that corner and she knew Dr. Gus Christler who lived within a block or two and so she had him called and he came over to the house and took her to the Methodist Hospital and sewed up her face--about seventeen or eighteen stitches or something.

So the next year that was the reason she was appointed again as Princess of the Tennessee Club so she could have some fun.

DR. CRAWFORD: You came back to Memphis at an interesting time.

MISS RICE: That's right.

DR. CRAWFORD: Let me ask Miss Rice, how did you find Memphis had changed in the time you were gone? Because you had been away several years at school and Europe. Do you remember what was different about it when you got back?

MISS RICE: You see, my first year over at boarding school was when I was fifteen. Then I came home in June and I was going to be sixteen years old on the 8th of June. My Grandfather Jones died the 7th of June. They had given me my first car on the 6th of June. They didn't wait till my birthday because Grandfather was so ill that they just gave it to me a little bit ahead of time. I learned to drive. I had learned to drive a little bit in 1927 when we were up in Minnesota at Mayo Clinic. I was there for about six to ten weeks. I don't know how long. They were testing my thyroid at that time. Daddy was there because he had gout in his elbows and his big toe. Aunt Annie was there because she had a gall bladder that came out and was operated on at St. Mary's Hospital at Mayo's Clinic. You see, I was just fifteen and very immature in some ways--in social ways. So when I was seventeen my family gave me a party.

Anyway, one thing I noticed was that in Budapest they had this island between Buda and Pest on the Danube River and it was called St. Margaret's Island. Even in the dead of winter which was around January 1st it was beautiful to take a taxi and have the driver drive you to these different sections of this island. They had an amusement park there and they had picnic grounds. Even in the dead of winter it was very attractive. So when I came back I told Daddy we ought to do something with Mud Island.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you were certainly early about that!

MISS RICE: Yes, but Daddy said, "No, we couldn't do anything about it because it would raise the taxes of all the people on Main Street and Front Street and Second and Third Street. We owned property on Second near Beale Street. So we didn't want any raise in taxes. So nothing ever came of it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you notice any changes the Depression had caused in Memphis?

MISS RICE: Well, no, you see I don't remember much before the Depression. Considering that it started in '29. I really didn't know how bad it was except that Daddy would come home from the Courthouse and be so tired from hearing people coming to ask him for help in getting a job. He would always keep control of his temper away from home, but he didn't always when he was at home. When people would call him at home, I'd hear him say things to mother. He wished he could have some free time.

DR. CRAWFORD: I can see how he would feel.

MISS RICE: He didn't have much because people felt that he could help them and they kept asking. He tried to help them.

DR. CRAWFORD: I'm sure he would. What position did he hold then? Was he collecting taxes then?

MISS RICE: Yes, he was back tax collector.

DR. CRAWFORD: For county and city taxes?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: I am sure they had a lot to collect in the 1930s.

MISS RICE: But the thing is, sometimes, people would let their

taxes go delinquent because they really couldn't pay them. Then, when they came to see him to pay them, then they would expect him to knock off the fees that he and John Brown were supposed to get from that office. Quite often they did. But Gene and Firth Condon and Herbie Aycock. Have you ever talked to Hervey Aycock?

DR. CRAWFORD: No, I have not.

MISS RICE: He lives in Millington. His wife was principal of a school in north Shelby County. Bolton, I think.

DR. CRAWFORD: I would like to get in touch with him.

MISS RICE: I've seen him quoted. He has a daughter too that might know more. But Herbie Aycock was the person who taught me how to drive a car in Minnesota because he had driven the car up there anyway.

DR. CRAWFORD: I'll tell you what I would like to do, Miss Rice. We have talked over an hour and I think we know one another and I think I know you and your father by now. What I really want to talk about is something that is going to take a while because that is your father's contributions to Memphis and the development of the city in this period. I know he was revenue collector or back-tax collector. Then he was customs collector.

MISS RICE: He didn't do anything with that.

DR. CRAWFORD: With the customs collector?

MISS RICE: No.

DR. CRAWFORD: That came late in his life, didn't it?

MISS RICE: Yes, he asked Senator McKellar to get him that job because he needed the money. Mr. Crump had

decided he was too old and too sick to go to Nashville anymore. He appointed Will Gerber or somebody else to try to take his place. He didn't have any income coming in and he asked Senator McKellar to get him a federal job. But he was in the office maybe three times in the three weeks of December because we left for New York.

DR. CRAWFORD: He died there, I understand.

MISS RICE: In his death. He left on the thirteenth of December.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was 1938?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: So his major work for the city was managing the Nashville delegation and back-tax collections.

MISS RICE: Also he was Mr. Crump's campaign manager in 1909.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was Mr. Crump's first campaign for mayor.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: And it was a successful one.

MISS RICE: Yes. That is when Handy wrote the song, "Mr. Crump Don't Allow No Easy Riding Now" which turned into "Memphis Blues."

DR. CRAWFORD: Have you heard how that song was written or why it happened?

MISS RICE: It was just that they hired Handy to do it, to write a campaign song. Of course, I remember in 1927 when they had Mr. Overton and Mr. Davis to the tune of "Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Sheen." They had a campaign song. I went to some of the things--the rallies and stuff. They would sing these

songs and then Charlie Bryant would get up and talk and Mayor Overton would get up and talk and some of the other lawyers that knew how to talk. They all thought they did. (Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: What I want to talk to you about will take awhile. I think since we have done this, if you wouldn't mind, maybe Helen and I could come back and we could start in on this topic and maybe we could do it one morning next week.

MISS RICE: Okay, that will be fine.

DR. CRAWFORD: Because this time we have learned a lot about the family and basically about your father and you. I think we are ready to talk now about his contributions to the city.

MISS RICE: All right and that will give me time to think up a chronological list as far as I was concerned about what I know. Because I don't know anything about the ouster except that if anybody mentioned it twenty years later, it still made Daddy mad that the people that filed that ouster suit and that they were under fire for two or three years and had a hard time. I never understood quite who they all were. I know Lovick Miles and Mr. Crawford and Rogers Caldwell and there were a lot of names. A lot of them in Nashville that I have a prejudice against. I don't know why. It was just things I remember hearing. I don't quite remember them right, but I hope somebody will write a good history of it.

DR. CRAWFORD: I am going to do something about that, Miss Rice. That is why your contribution is so important. I am very happy to get this today because this is background about

him and the family which we need. I thank you very much for it.

MISS RICE: Okay.

Addendum:

MISS RICE:It was when I went off to boarding school.

DR. CRAWFORD: This is a story when you left to go to boarding school?

MISS RICE: Yes. The parents weren't supposed to come for three weeks, but since mother and I were in New York and she wanted to come the next week. Miss Hillard, the principal, allowed my mother to come and stay and have dinner and see the school and so forth and so on. Because we hadn't had time to do it before I got there.

When my mother came, I was waiting at the front door for her. I just grabbed her and just held her tight. They had never seen anybody that close to their mother--I mean to show that much emotion--but I was so thankful to see her. I had missed her so much that first week that I was gone. Then all the different teachers--my teachers and other vice principals and so forth. Mother sat at the head table and I sat with the girls out in the dining room. Mother had private conversations with Miss Hillard, the Head Mistress,and other people of importance in the school. They would ask her questions about southern politics. Anyway, I didn't find this out until later, but Mother evidently told them what she thought rather than what my father is supposed to have thought. (Laughter) I didn't find it out until they had a straw

vote at the time of the election of Al Smith and was it Herbert Hoover?

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes, in 1928.

MISS RICE: Yes, well, I never had had a straw vote. I didn't know what it meant, but I said I am going to vote. I mean, we were all supposed to vote in study hall. I put Al Smith and Frances Rice. I didn't know it was supposed to be blank or whatever you call it. Anyway, the teacher that counted the ballots, I think there were about four votes, for Al Smith in the whole school.

DR. CRAWFORD: And the others were for Herbert Hoover?

MISS RICE: Yes. Of course, I was the only one that signed mine. So this teacher was questioning me afterwards. Then she also told me that she had been one of the teachers that had talked to my mother and had gotten her views on politics. So when she told me some of the things that my mother had said, I was right surprised. I said, "Well, maybe that is the way that Mother felt,but Daddy didn't feel that way."

DR. CRAWFORD: You didn't know your mother had her own opinion?

MISS RICE: Right. Because she had never expressed them, you see, in the family--in the privacy of our little family. She probably felt that way and many of her friends felt that way about national politics, but she didn't say anything in Memphis about it. That was an eye opener for me at fifteen to realize that my mother could think one way and say nothing about it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well she supported your father.

MISS RICE: Yes,in whatever he had to do, she was back of it.

DR. CRAWFORD: You know your mother did not get the right to vote and no women did until 1920.

MISS RICE: Yes, I know.

DR. CRAWFORD: So taking part in politics was sort of new.

MISS RICE: Daddy didn't like women in politics, but he got along with them. He managed them. He appointed them to committees and could get along with them.

DR. CRAWFORD: You saw a lot of change take place in Memphis.

THIS IS THE ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE OF MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY. THE PROJECT IS "MEMPHIS DURING THE CRUMP ERA." THE DATE IS SEPTEMBER 21, 1989. THE PLACE IS MEMPHIS, TENNNESSEE. THE INTERVIEW IS WITH MISS FRANCES RICE. THE INTERVIEW IS BY DR. CHARLES W. CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE. TRANSCRIBED BY BETTY WILLIAMS. INTERVIEW II.

DR. CRAWFORD: Miss Rice, I would talk mainly today about your father's contribution--Frank Rice--and the role he played in Memphis history because I know that he was very active as an office holder and also what he provided in leadership without being in office. So I would like to talk about that today. I suppose we could start with the first time you became aware that your father was active in public service. Do you remember when you first began to notice that?

MISS RICE: Well, I think it was the Armistice Day of 1920. Daddy by that time had an office in the courthouse. Of course, I was about seven years old. It was my first parade that I went to--an Armistice Day Parade. It was also my father's birthday. I thought the parade was in honor of him (laughter) instead of the veterans.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was his birthday on November 11? That was Armistice Day.

MISS RICE: Yes, and he was fifty years old on Armistice Day. That made him fifty-one the next year.

DR. CRAWFORD: In 1920.

MISS RICE: Yes, I didn't go in 1919, I don't think. I think it was 1920 before I went.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe I have seen some pictures and photographs of the one in possibly 1919 and I suppose the one in 1920. What do you remember about it?

MISS RICE: Well, I sat in the window of the courthouse overlooking Second Street. Daddy's office was on Third Street, I think. We went to somebody else's office that was on Second Street. I sat in this deep marble top window sill thing. It was perfectly safe and even mother thought it was safe. I think my little sister went too. She was four and half years younger. But I don't remember much about her at that point. I was fascinated with the parade and all the soldiers and veterans marching. Then they had some Spanish-American war veterans marching. I asked Daddy why he wasn't marching? He said he was too busy to march. (Laughter) He never was very active in the Spanish-American War Veterans thing. As he told Paul Coppock, he was quartermaster and he took in things, but he didn't give anything out. So that is the way he did a good job he was given to do when he was in Cuba.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now, by that time they had some young veterans around from World War I and they also in 1920 had still some veterans from the Civil War around.

MISS RICE: Yes, but they rode in cars--the Civil War Veterans. I think there were five of them is the way I remember it. I had met one of them, Dr. Lipscomb, because my mother was a friend of Norma Lipscomb Sayer and of also Dr.

Lipscomb's son, who Daddy had sold an insurance policy when he was in the insurance business. It must have been around 1900 or something--1903 or '05 or something like that. Then I just remember my mother saying that as Dr. Lipscomb in his uniform was driven by, my mother told me she knew Norma Sayer, his daughter, and also his only son, who had died tragically earlier or something like that.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember if your father was still in the legislature or if he was registrar then?

MISS RICE: He was not in the legislature because I read in 75 years ago or whatever it is, I read in one of these columns in the paper that he was only in the legislature about six months. I've got that information. But he went to Nashville with the legislators but he was not. . . As soon as the young men came back from the army from World War I, why they appointed lawyers. They wanted people who knew what they were writing up and stuff like that. Daddy wished that he had been a lawyer and realized that he should have been a lawyer, that he should have continued his education. It was too late then. Of course, after all he was fifty-one.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, they had plenty of members in the legislature who were lawyers. They could write up the laws, but someone, I suppose, had to tell them what to write up, didn't they?

MISS RICE: Yes, I think that was what bills they wanted passed that were put all over the state and to trade on bills and things like that. That's what my father did really as

far as I understand it.

DR. CRAWFORD: I have heard that Shelby County legislative delegation then was a very effective one. That they picked good people to be in office--people who were trained or educated or knew something about public service. Did you get an impression of what kind they were?

MISS RICE: Well, a good many were well educated like Frank Gailor who was an Oxford scholar.

DR. CRAWFORD: Which one?

MISS RICE: Frank Gailor, Bishop Gailor's son. Of course, he had been to Sewanee and then he got a Rhodes Scholarship. Then he volunteered with the British army while he was at Oxford. Then he came back to Memphis and got a law degree I don't know where. And [he] was in the legislature. Also he was in an important job at the courthouse. There was Percy McDonald, I remember. They picked young men from different good law firms in the city and people that had knowledge of the city and a background of the city.

You see, Mr. Crump was from out of town. My father had grown up on Poplar Street. He was born between Second and Third on Poplar Street and then moved out to the what is now the 700 block across from St. Mary's Cathedral. I think my grandmother moved out there in about 1886. Of course, my grandfather had died in '78 when Daddy was not ten years old--nine and a half practically. Daddy was the oldest of five children. So my grandmother had to raise those five children alone. Of course, she was Catholic and went to St. Peter's Church, but she did not send the girls to parochial schools. For some reason, she had been to St. Agnes

Academy when she was about fifteen or sixteen and seventeen, I guess. Maybe the nuns were not very nice to her. I don't know what happened. Anyway, I never heard her mention it and yet I was surprised when I later found evidence that she had been at St. Agnes. Because she sent her daughters to Mrs. Conway's Private School. Of course, I read at the doctor's office just last week that Christian Brothers College and high school was established here in 1871. My father went to two or three other schools before he went to Christian Brothers High School at about thirteen. So he left it, but his younger brother stayed on.

DR. CRAWFORD: But he really knew Memphis well, because he had lived here all his life?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: And you became aware of his political service in 1920, but he had really started earlier. What did he do in Mr. Crump's first campaign for mayor? I believe it started in 1910. He took office in 1910.

MISS RICE: He was Mr. Crump's campaign manager. But he had worked for others. He'd been interested in politics before Mr. Crump became active in it according to some things I have read. He was interested. On one side he worked for Malcolm Patterson. I found that out. Then later, of course, he was on the opposite side from Malcolm Patterson. I never understood what caused that break.

DR. CRAWFORD: May I ask you a question about Malcolm Patterson? His name, if I remember correctly, was Malcolm Rice

Patterson. Do you know if they were related in any way?

MISS RICE: No, absolutely not. They may have been related to the Rices that have the Rice grant. But of course, John Rice that had the Rice Grant according to the West Tennessee Historical Society did not have any heirs but he had brothers. It didn't say where he was originally from, but he bought that 5,000 acre grant. It wasn't granted to him. He bought it. His brothers had descendants in Dyersburg and all over West Tennessee but my father was not related to them at all. Because my grandfather came from Ireland when he was four years old. His widowed mother joined an older son, who had already settled in Memphis. They were not connected to the other Rices. They were the only ones. I'm the last one left of those Rices.

DR. CRAWFORD: They were two different families then?

MISS RICE: Yes, completely. I don't even know that they were from Ireland. They could have been from Wales or someplace like that.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, your father held an important position in Mr. Crump's first mayor's race when he took office in 1910.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know how they met one another or when it happened?

MISS RICE: I think they met socially before they met politically. I think that they were both bachelors, and Daddy had come back from the Spanish-American War, I think, about the time that Mr. Crump came to Memphis or something like that. I'm not exactly positive on that. Say

around 1900, I think they met socially because Daddy was at that time escorting Miss Jenny Fontaine--Miss Virginia Fontaine--Nolan Fontaine's daughter.

DR. CRAWFORD:The Fontaine House?

MISS RICE: Yes. They gave big parties,and they had groups of young people. I think Mrs. Crump was a good friend of Miss Fontaine. I think that is how they met. I mean Daddy and Mr. Crump were eligible bachelors. So they were thrown together a lot. I think that is the way they met. Because Daddy at that point had been in the bicycle business and maybe still was after he came back from the Spanish-American War. I am not sure on that. That is a little vague. I think at one time Daddy sold something or other in Arkansas, but I don't know what it was. He didn't talk about that period of time in my presence.

DR. CRAWFORD: I know that Mr. Crump was active in the Businessman's Club which I believe was the forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce. What was your father active in--what clubs--do you know that?

MISS RICE: I have a little disk that says the Elks Club--F.J. Rice, and a certain address on Poplar. But I don't know whether that is his older cousin of Frank James Rice or whether it was Daddy's membership. I don't know where I can find out about that. I have never called an Elks' Club to see if they have any old records of old members. I know when the Elks Club was built between Main and Second he had to buy some bonds because he had once been a member of the Elks Club. That's the only fraternal club that he ever joined in Memphis. He found that

politics and clubs didn't mix.

Later on when my sister and I were teenagers, he did become a member of the Memphis Country Club and Chickasaw Golf Club and the Hunt and Polo Club just because he was made honorary member of the Hunt and Polo Club. That was because they knew he liked horses, but he very rarely watched a polo game. He liked to see them race. He didn't care about a game with horses.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did he go to the horse races at Hot Springs?

MISS RICE: Yes. He went to Lexington too--or was it Louisville at the Derby?

DR. CRAWFORD: Louisville at the Kentucky Derby.

MISS RICE: He went almost every year to that.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was something he enjoyed too.

MISS RICE: But mother didn't enjoy that. Her father had been a harness racing person. My grandfather Jones had loved harness racing and at one time had a very good horse and won some races.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, that was very important in Memphis up until about 1909 until they stopped doing it. Some people don't like horse racing and some people do. Mr. Crump did, I know. He went to Hot Springs.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did your father and Mr. Crump remain friends all of his life?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: I know Mr. Crump was younger than your father. He lived several years longer.

MISS RICE: He lived almost 20 years longer.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe he died in '54.

MISS RICE: Yes. Daddy died in '38. So that's about 16 years.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you ever hear your father talk about the mayor's campaign when Mr. Crump was elected and they got Mr. Handy to sing the song? Did you hear anything about that?

MISS RICE: Yes. Daddy said that they hired him to write the song and sing it. Then later, there was a tale about how the "St. Louis Blues" was written afterwards. This wealthy man from St. Louis paid Handy to name it "St. Louis Blues." I think it was supposed to be the" Memphis Blues," you see. When he got some money for naming it "The St. Louis Blues," well then he changed the "Mr. Crump Blues" into the "Memphis Blues." That's the way I heard the story.

DR. CRAWFORD: So both of them changed. The one he wrote for Mr. Crump became the "The Memphis Blues" and what had been "The Memphis Blues" changed to the "St Louis Blues."

MISS RICE: That was my understanding.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you ever meet Mr. Handy when he was in Memphis? Or hear him play?

MISS RICE: I don't think so. I think by the time I came back from four years in Connecticut and a year abroad and the year I made my debut we had some party that had sort of a jug band, but I don't believe it was Handy's. I think it was an offshoot. This young group of people just sat on the porch at the country club and listened to this jug band. I mean some of the

boys had found it and brought it to the club. I don't think it was Handy, but it was a descendant of Handy's. By that time Handy had been in New York, you see, for ten or fifteen years and he came back very rarely to Memphis. I don't think I ever saw him, but I've heard about him all my life.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you ever hear anything else about that first campaign?

MISS RICE: Well, they won by very few votes.

DR. CRAWFORD: It was close, wasn't it?

MISS RICE: Yes. That cartoon up there, I never liked it until now that I am older I can see. When I was young, that didn't look to me like Daddy.

DR. CRAWFORD: That's a cartoon of your daddy, drawn I believe, by George Curtis. I can't tell, but he looks young there. His hair is dark. That might have been about 1910. Is that the campaign?

MISS RICE: Yes, it could be. Would you like to take it and see if you can find out anything about it?

DR. CRAWFORD: I will ask about it. I won't need to take it, Miss Rice. I think I recognize--yes, he is the one sitting at the desk; and there are no other characters I can identify by looking. He's the subject of it. That looks like the editorial cartoon probably about election day.

MISS RICE: The day or the day afterwards because they won by about seven votes I think. (Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, that's what the poll indicates. Someone on the phone is asking "Who's elected? Who's elected?"

So that is probably what it was. They got Mr. Handy to help with the music, and if I remember correctly, they had to work pretty hard to educate some of the voters or get them to recognize the names and get out there. I believe there are a lot of Memphis voters who weren't too well educated then.

MISS RICE: Have you ever heard any of the lyrics of "Mr. Crump Don't 'Low No Easy Ridin' Now." You see, the garbage men were on there.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were they singing that?

MISS RICE: Yes, that was supposed to be in the song. The garbagemen were saying, "Mr. Crump Don't Low No Easy Ridin' Now." They had a comfortable bench, you see, up above the garbage. And sometimes they would drive the horse over to where they were supposed to go, but they would be sleeping on the job. That was part of the campaign.

DR. CRAWFORD: And that is what they meant. I did not know that.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe they would have had in 1909. They would have had horse-drawn garbage carts because I believe the first car had been brought to Memphis, I think, it was by Mr. Carnes maybe. Paul Coppock wrote about that after the century started.

MISS RICE: Yes, about 1905 or something like that. Maybe a few in 1903 or something like that.

DR. CRAWFORD: So that is what the lyrics meant. Have you heard any of the other lyrics in the song?

MISS RICE: No, that is the only one I remember.

DR. CRAWFORD: But you had heard your father comment on that?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now, wasn't he elected county register about that time?

MISS RICE: Yes, he was. That is the only time he ran for election, it seems to me.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe that he would have been on the ticket probably the same time Mr. Crump was running for mayor, he was running for county register.

MISS RICE: He might have been, but he didn't consider that important.

DR. CRAWFORD: But he did win?

MISS RICE: Yes, that's right.

DR. CRAWFORD: I guess they consider the mayor's race as the main thing.

MISS RICE: Yes, the whole thing. After that, most of his jobs were appointed. I don't know whether he actually ran for state senator or whether somebody had to go to war and he was appointed to take his place. I don't know what happened there.

DR. CRAWFORD: I don't know, but I can find out about that.

MISS RICE: I sound very southern on tape. I don't sound that way to myself.

DR. CRAWFORD: There is no reason for you not to be.

MISS RICE: Well, four years in Connecticut and three years in California. I took a lot of diction and stuff. For a while I didn't sound so southern.

DR. CRAWFORD: And one year you were abroad. I suppose if we were born in the South, we still talk like it in a way.

MISS RICE: That is true. Over the telephone nobody could tell whether it was my mother or my sister or me answering the phone. They didn't know which--we all sounded alike. I didn't lose it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Sometimes, that is true, I will call and I won't know whether it is the mother or the daughter speaking. Now, this first time that Mr. Crump was in as mayor and your father was register, everything went smoothly for a while, but the legislature then under Governor Ben Hooper--no, it may have been under Tom Rye--passed the Ouster Act. Have you heard about that? The one they used to get Mr. Crump out of office.

MISS RICE: No, I never understood it. It was beyond my comprehension as a child. It made Daddy so mad every time he thought about it that the different people in Memphis who implemented the actual ouster and the trouble it caused. Well, financially it was very disasterous to my father and to Mr. Crump too. There they were in office and doing well, they thought, and then this suit came up. It was followed through. I steered clear of that. I didn't try to find out. I really found out more in reading about it in the last fifty years than I did from him. It just made him mad. Sometimes, when I would mention daughters of some of these men that I went to school with and I was friends with them and went to parties at their house and they came to my house. It sort of irritated Daddy. Then finally the Lovick Miles [family] moved in right next door to us. They bought the McClure

house. The McClures were lumber people and built this lovely house that the Russell Weiners now have. But the Lovick Miles had two daughters and a son. It happens that my future first brother-in-law was going steady with the girl next door when my sister took him away from her and married him. (Laughter) Then, my cousin would come over and visit from Pine Bluff, Arkansas,and she liked the son of the house next door. I think it irritated Daddy for young Lovick Miles to come over to his house to pick up Ann. Anyway, he had to put up with it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Sort of like the Romeo and Juliet story of the two families.

MISS RICE: Yes. I really don't want that left in unless you really want it because I hadn't thought about it that way until just now.

DR. CRAWFORD: I think that is a part of the Memphis history.

MISS RICE: I guess it is. Fifty years later what difference does it make!

DR. CRAWFORD: Because families divided over that just like they had over the Civil War and other things. Briefly, I think about the Ouster Act, I can see why your father was angry. It was passed in the legislature in Nashville, as I understand it, by enemies of Mr. Crump and of Mayor Hillary House in Nashville. I think the issue, Miss Rice, was prohibition. You know that was when they had this big experiment with prohibition and then had to revoke it.

MISS RICE: When did Tennessee get this prohibition thing?

DR. CRAWFORD: It went into effect in 1909 and that was what

caused Malcolm Patterson to be defeated in 1910, the same year that your father would have become Register and the Mr. Crump became Mayor. Malcolm Patterson was defeated because he had opposed it and the dries or the prohibition group were strongest in the rural areas. People in Memphis and Nashville didn't want prohibition.

MISS RICE: No, because they had these Luhrmans and marvelous places where you could go to get good food and good drink. They didn't approve of it being dry. (Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: No, they didn't want it and people in the legislature who represented the rural districts knew that. So they wanted to pass a law just to get rid of Mr. Crump and Mr. House in Nashville. So they passed this law that if any public official was not enforcing the law--prohibition law at least--a petition could be drawn up and the court could remove the person from office.

MISS RICE: Was this about 1913 maybe about the time I was born?

DR. CRAWFORD: I think it passed maybe in 1914 or '15. I believe it was used against Mr. Crump in 1915.

MISS RICE: Yes, in '15 or 16.

DR. CRAWFORD: It was passed to use against Memphis and Nashville.

MISS RICE: It put a dead stop to their influence.

DR. CRAWFORD: You see it caught Mr. Crump in a dilemma. He could do one of only two things. For one thing he could dry up Memphis and close all the places that served drinks. But if he did, that would hurt him politicly because the people wanted it. On the other hand, if he did not enforce the law about

prohibition, they could bring an ouster suit against him. So it was designed to get rid of Mr. Crump and Mr. House.

MISS RICE: I never heard about Mr. House, but it was done by The Commercial Appeal--I mean the people who owned The Commercial Appeal wanted to gain back their power I guess.

DR. CRAWFORD: They got some people in Memphis to file those charges. I didn't know who did, but the Lovick Miles family was that one?

MISS RICE: Yes, and Gus Fitzhugh.

DR. CRAWFORD: Gus Fitzhugh. Was that a Republican family?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: I knew Millsaps Fitzhugh later was a leader for the Republican Party. Well, they wanted to get rid of Mr. Crump. That's why they filed the ouster suit.

MISS RICE: C.P.J. Mooney, you know, the editor of The Commercial Appeal. I read a little thing about C. P. Alley the other day--a little book--his daughter, Mrs. Ahlgren, got out in '71 explaining how her father came to do political cartoons for The Commercial Appeal and to do Hambone. She said that Hambone was created as a political device to make fun of Mr. Crump.

DR. CRAWFORD: I didn't realize that.

MISS RICE: I didn't either.

DR. CRAWFORD: You know later it changed and went on long after Mr. Crump was gone.

MISS RICE: They stopped it for a while and then there was

such public demand that he changed it from being really satire and made it more humorous and homey.

DR. CRAWFORD: I never, of course, being younger started reading it until it was a humorous character. I didn't realize he used as a satire.

MISS RICE: Neither did I because this was 1914 and '15 and'16. So I would love to see some cartoons of that period.

DR. CRAWFORD: They are available because we have the old papers on microfilm, Miss Rice. I did not realize that Mrs. Ahlgren had written that little book. I have not seen a copy.

MISS RICE: She published it and I saw it in my cousin's house the other night.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, I will see if Burke's Book Store has a copy because it goes along with my Cal Alley Book that Helen has and you have a copy of now.

MISS RICE: Yes, that is good. I have an original cartoon that J.P.Alley did in '27.

DR. CRAWFORD: I suppose it is obvious, Miss Rice, but did you ever hear what Mr. Crump thought of the Ouster Act?

MISS RICE: Nobody asked him in my presence. (Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: I expect his opinion was very much like your father's since the Act was passed against him. In fact, I'm not absolutely sure of this, but I believe that it was after this Act that removed him from office that he began to build

up his political organization powerful enough to influence Nashville so that they could never do anything like that to him again in Nashville.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: After that, Mr. Crump became register for a while himself.

MISS RICE: I guess so.

DR. CRAWFORD: I think in the late teens it might have been that he was there.

MISS RICE: Maybe he got Daddy to be senator so he could take that job. (laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: He did follow your father in that job.

MISS RICE: He got him appointed senator. I hadn't thought of that angle either.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did your father ever talk about his legislative service when he was state senator?

MISS RICE: Only what Paul quoted that he would go out in the halls and lobby with himself. He didn't know how to lobby on the floor. He wasn't a good public speaker. And neither was Mr. Crump. That's the reason they got Mr. Overton and Mr. Davis and Mr. Percy McDonald and all these young lawyers that could speak on any subject that they were given ten minutes notice. They could come up with a ten minute speech. They could represent the ticket.

The first political rally I went to was for Mr. Paine.

DR. CRAWFORD: Rowlett Paine.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember what year that would have been?

MISS RICE: It might have been '22 or '23 or something like that. But you see my mother had known his mother and his afflicted sister. And mother had taken me when I was about six years old to see Maggie Paine. She lived in an institution which was run by Catholic nuns, I think. Mother and I went in to see her. Her head was huge and her body was dwarfed. I don't think she could talk. But anyway, mother went to see her because her mother was ill and couldn't go to see her that week. But mother shouldn't have taken me in to see her, but she did. Then mother knew Mrs. Paine--Anna Belle--the young wife of Mayor Paine. The mayor to me was old and his wife was young and had three small children. That was the rallies that I went to.

Also mother had to drive Daddy and Elizabeth and me into this forest and there was the Ku Klux Klan meeting. But we went to see about it.

DR. CRAWFORD: That might have been in the 1920s.

MISS RICE: Yes. You see, Mr Crump had a chauffeur, but mother was Daddy's chauffeur.

DR. CRAWFORD: She drove him around and you went along sometimes.

MISS RICE: Nobody to leave us with. We didn't have babysitters in those days. I could have gone across the street and stayed with my grandmother and grandfather, but that wasn't always convenient to have two small children dumped on you in the middle of the night, they would think, because it was 8 o'clock at night.

DR. CRAWFORD: I am sure your father had a lot of meetings he had

to go to.

MISS RICE: He'd have one of the boys to come by and pick him up, but this was something he wanted to see on his own. He wanted to see what was happening. Of course, he only got a certain distance in the woods because they were like secret service people and police all around this area were watching what was happening too. They didn't let us go any further. I did see people in hoods. Of course, by that time in the state maybe it was '22 or '23 I was ten years old and was reading the Elsie Densmore books and I was simply fascinated. Because Elsie Dinsmore was very active in fighting the Ku Klux Klan. So I was fascinated with the whole subject. It was all so secret. I never mentioned it to anybody but that I had been there and had actually seen these people in hoods.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, The Commercial Appeal was very much opposed to the Klan, I remember then. What do you remember about the Rowlett Paine political rally? Were your father and Mr. Crump supporting him?

MISS RICE: Yes, they were at that time. Then, four years later they didn't.

DR. CRAWFORD: What happened at a political rally like that? Did you have speeches or music?

MISS RICE: Well, you see, I think I did hear Charlie Bryan. He had a silver tongue. Charles Bryan Road is named for him. I think he had farm land on it from his family. He was a bachelor. I heard him speak. I'm trying to think who else I actually heard speak besides Mayor Paine who was already in

office, I think and running again. They had decided to support him or something. I was too young to get that straight at that point.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did your father think of the Ku Klux Klan?

MISS RICE: I don't know if I got the wrong impression, but I think he thought they were narrow-minded and Baptist. And of course, he used to tell this joke later. He'd say, "Now, there are narrow-minded Catholics,and there are narrow-minded Methodists,and narrowed-minded Presbyterians,and there are narrow-minded Baptists and even narrow-minded Episcopalians. (Laughter) By that time that's what we were. (Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe Mr. Crump and I guess your father opposed the Klan?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: But some political people were helped by it. I think Cliff Davis had Klan support.

MISS RICE: I think they had won him over to their side. That's the way I gathered that. I do remember going to rallies for the Overton-Davis ticket and they had a song, "Mr. Gallaher and Mr. Sheen" and they took the music of that and made it Mr. Overton and Mr. Davis and it was quite popular--the singing. I remember hearing the young lawyers speaking in behalf of those two candidates.

DR. CRAWFORD: They were using young lawyers a lot to make the speeches? You know Mr. Crump and your father did not have to be public orators, because they had plenty of people who would say what they needed said.

MISS RICE: That is the way they did it. Nowadays people if they were that interested as they were, they would have taken public speaking and gone into that angle of it. But neither one of them. Now, Mr. Crump had his little red book or blue book or whatever it was, he really could remember people's names. He had a memory system. Daddy admired that very much. He couldn't and yet Daddy had more friends than Mr. Crump as the way I look at it. I heard more nice things after his death and while he was living said about him. Of course, I heard nothing bad. I had to read that in the newspaper.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, he avoided press publicity, didn't he?

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: And during the '20s do you remember anything about their part or your father's part in the election of 1928. That would have been when Al Smith was running for president? That one was a hard one because he was a New Yorker and a Catholic as well as a Democrat?

MISS RICE: I expected Memphis to go for Al Smith and of course, they didn't. I expected it to because my father, I thought, was for Al Smith.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was he for Al Smith?

MISS RICE: I thought he was.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, that was loyalty to the Democratic ticket.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe that he probably did support the Democratic ticket loyally and all his life so far as I know.

MISS RICE: Yes, and I heard that the Democratic Convention was on in Texas and was on the radio. I seem to remember hearing Franklin Roosevelt nominate Smith. And that is the first time I heard him. He got me right then.

DR. CRAWFORD: Franklin Roosevelt did?

MISS RICE: Yes. He gave a most marvelous speech to me a 13 year old or something like that or 14.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, that was a good opportunity for him to be heard nationwide without even running for office in 1928.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Then, he became governor of New York. So he was ready to run again four years later.

MISS RICE: And I went to that convention, you see.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was the Chicago convention.

MISS RICE: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: And you attended it?

MISS RICE: Yes, but I really think I wanted to go because I had heard this Franklin Roosevelt speak on my grandmother's radio. Now she was up to listen to Dean Noe and to other religious talkers on her radio. She never listened to music, but she did like to hear the Bible and stuff like that--my Grandmother Jones.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember how people felt about Smith or Hoover in the election?

MISS RICE: They didn't like it because he was Catholic. Even Memphis didn't like Kennedy because he was Catholic. Jehovah's Witness came to talk to me at 75 East Parkway

North and they came in and were downgrading Catholics and I just made them get up and leave because I was half Catholic--I mean born half Catholic and baptized in the Catholic Church. I never attended except with my grandmother when I was under six years old. I guess they got me before I was seven so I've never been prejudiced against the Catholic Church.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, that was a hard one for people in Memphis the election of 1928 because Smith was Catholic. On the other hand Hoover was Republican and they didn't like that either.

MISS RICE: But there was enough money and enough Catholic prejudice. I mean I was really shocked when the state of Tennessee went Republican.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was certainly an exception. I believe that was the first election since reconstruction that Tennessee had voted for a Republican candidate and I don't believe they did it again until after World War II.

MISS RICE: I was in Connecticut when it happened, but I was shocked to see it in the paper to see that Tennessee had gone Republican. Of course, I didn't realize how East Tennessee was Republican. But it had never carried before as far as I was concerned.

DR. CRAWFORD: That must have surprised a lot of people. In the next election of 1932 you were leaving school and had a chance to go to it. What I would like to do, Miss Rice, if

we can is to stop with this election of 1928 and start if you will meet with us again in 1932 and go on with what your father did in the thirties?

MISS RICE: That will be great. I would like to.

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Rice, Frank J. (1868—1938)

SENATE, 61st General Assembly, 1919-1921; representing Shelby County; Democrat. Replaced Senator Frank Fuller, then resigned six months later to become a state revenue agent. Born November 11, 1868, in Memphis, Shelby County; son of Dr. Frank and Isabella (Fransiela) Rice. Educated in a private school under tutelage of Lyon G. Tyler (son of President John Tyler) and at University of Virginia. Member of Chickasaw Guards, 1888; served in Spanish-American War; lieutenant in Company I, 4th Tennessee Volunteers; spent a year in Cuba in Quartermaster Department. Married November 30, 1903, place not given, to Patte Jones; names of wife's parents not stated; children: Frances, Elizabeth, and Stephen. After higher education, entered insurance business as general agent. Had a colorful career in politics, serving as a "trusted lieutenant" of E. H.

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"Boss" Crump. County registrar of deeds, 1910-1918; state revenue agent, 1919-1938. Democratic national committeeman. Appointed U. S. Collector of Customs in Memphis, 1938. Member of Episcopal Church; Tennessee Club; Elks Club; Hunt and Pole Club of Memphis. Died December 29, 1938, in New York City; buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

Sources: Gillum, *Prominent Tennesseans,* 181; Tennessee *Public Acts,* 1919; *House Journal* (1939), 897; Nashville *Banner,* December 29, 1938; Memphis *Commercial Appeal,* December 30, 1938.

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